



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

February 16, 2007

Hello Friends,

It is once again the time of year where I recognize the 30th Assembly Districts “**Woman of the Year**”. This annual ceremony gives me the opportunity to honor an outstanding woman in my district who has **actively worked toward making a difference in our community**.

I am pleased to announce this year’s recipient is **Magda Menendez**. Magda has been with the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation since 1981 where she is responsible for the day-to-day program operation; supervision of 29 full-time employees and 12 programs that provide daily **employment training services for over 300 Kern County residents**.

In addition to her employment, Magda is currently serving as a Board Member for the **Workforce Investment Board of Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties**; she is a founding Board Member of the **Latina Leaders of Kern County**, a Governing Board Member of the **Kern County Network for Children**; a Board Member of the **Blanche and Irma Weill Foundation**, and serves as the Vice-President of the **Richard Prado East Bakersfield Senior Center**.

Magda will rightfully join the **group of extraordinary women** who have received this award in the past, and will serve as an example of what can be accomplished through **hard work and a passion for helping others**.

Past “Woman of the Year” recipients:

- **2006: Judith Horn – Hanford** – Judy is the Community Director for the Kings Partnership for Children, and also a member of numerous community organizations including the Lakeside School Board, Hanford Noon Kiwanis, The NAACP, among many others.
- **2005: Dolores Huerta – Bakersfield** – Dolores is the Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers, and has worked ardently to ensure safe and equitable working conditions for our Valley workers, and is also the founder of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which takes a prominent place in supporting communities in the Valley.

- **2004: Sandra Meraz – Alpaugh** – Sandra was instrumental in raising funds and providing quality water resources after a major failure in the City of Alpaugh’s water supply. Sandra has recently gained a seat on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and is doing great work in support of rural communities across the valley.
- **2003: Betty Weaver – Avenal** – Betty is an instrumental part of the community in Avenal, having worked hard over the years in support of that town’s senior citizen community. Betty has been a strong voice for her communities through her work raising money for local scholarships, and has been instrumental in advancing the cause for farm-workers rights.

Quay Valley Ranch Scoping Meeting

I attended **the Quay Valley environmental scoping meeting** in Kettleman City on Thursday evening. The meeting solicited views, concerns and recommendations from residents, adjacent jurisdictions, public agencies and interest groups regarding **Quay Valley Ranch, a 12,000-acre development** along Interstate 5 just north of the Kern County line proposed by Kings County Ventures.

Quay Valley Ranch will be a model for **sustainable development** in the 21st century. The community will be **100 percent solar-powered**, with meandering waterways, open walking trails, 2,400 acres of abundant open space, restored wetlands and **permanent agriculture**. A vibrant town center will be flanked with friendly neighborhoods of “smart” homes featuring the latest technologies and full Internet connectivity, plus shops, and recreation venues.

Taking advantage of its **ideal location in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley**, an integral part of Quay Valley Ranch will be a world-class Entertainment Destination district. It will include themed resort hotels, a water park, performance driving school, lifestyle center, shops, restaurants, convention center and other unique family-friendly attractions. An **international motor speedway** complex will feature four separate facilities: a one-mile oval with seating up to 42,000, a 2.4-mile road course, a drag racing venue and a boat drag racing venue.

The “greenprint” for this self-sustaining community of 50,000 homes and 150,000 residents combines the best aspects of New Urbanism with the San Joaquin Valley’s rural traditions, creating a unique **town built on the principles of New Ruralism**.

According to **Quay Hays, the city’s founder**, as this new town is planned the developers imagine a place where every day the air is cleaner, the water is more pure, and the people are healthier and deeply enriched by the culture surrounding them.

I applaud Mr. Hays for his efforts to improve life in the San Joaquin Valley by demonstrating self sufficiency and energy efficiency in the town he is helping to create. I hope that the successes of Quay Valley Ranch can be implemented in other towns throughout the Valley to reduce energy demand and increase tourism, while preserving the rich cultural history of the San Joaquin Valley.

DUI Legislation

In 2004 I authored a bill that was eventually signed into law by the Governor that required individuals convicted of driving under the influence to sign a statement acknowledging the dangers of drunk driving. Since the passage of AB 2173, the ability of prosecuting attorneys to hold repeat DUI offenders liable has increased when their actions result in the death of another individual.

I am proud to announce that Assemblymember Todd Spitzer and I will introduced a bill which builds upon the spirit of AB 2173 by further requiring all individuals wishing to obtain or renew a California driver's license to acknowledge the danger of driving under the influence.

This bill will be a part of a larger legislative package that is aimed at reducing the number of deaths related to individuals driving under the influence.

Important Notes for the Valley

The **Northern Tulare County Leadership** stopped by my office this week in order to discuss the legislative process and ways to get involved in politics to benefit their surrounding communities. The group was made up of residents of **Cutler, Orosi, Dinuba, and Reedley** and is intended to build a communication network with current leaders while establishing a foundation with other emerging leaders. Individuals participating in this program include community and business leaders, public safety professionals, and educators.

While I was in the district this weekend, I had the pleasure of meeting with **Ken Garcia** of The **Good Samaritan Hospital in Bakersfield**. Good Samaritan is in the process of implementing a new program under the Department of Human Services known as the 5150 program. They are attempting to add on to their mental health program with a grant that would allow them to have a larger facility in order to house patients who are a danger to themselves or others.

In addition to meeting with Ken, I also had an opportunity to sit down with **Angel Diaz**, Delano resident who I have had the pleasure of working with over the years on issues such as child care, community development and public safety, **Dolores Huerta**, founder of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, and **Supervising District Attorney John Brownlee**.

Legislative Update

As many of you know, the deadline to introduce bills for the 2007-2008 Legislative Session is next Friday, February 23rd. My staff and I are currently working hard in order to put together a bill package that will be substantial and beneficial to the State of California and the people of the 30th Assembly District.

- **AB 440: Meth Dealer Penalty Parity** – Will bring penalties for dealing and transporting

methamphetamine into line with other street drugs by eliminating the current one year “discount” they currently receive.

- **AB 441: Meth Penalty Enhancements** – Will allow for a 3-5 year enhancement on any crime committed under the influence of methamphetamine.
- **AB 442: Meth Treatment Prior to Parole** – Would require an inmate convicted of charges related to methamphetamine to successfully complete a drug rehabilitation program prior to being eligible for parole.

As with all of our bills, your letters of support are critical to success in the legislative process. If you or your group or company would like to lend your support to a bill, please send a letter to:

California State Capitol
Re: Letter of Support
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Assembly Committee on Agriculture – *IMPORTANT NEWS*****

As I announced on Tuesday, the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committee will be holding a **joint informational hearing on February 27th** at 1:30 in the Capitol, room 126 to discuss “Farming and the Environment: An Overview of the 2006 E. coli outbreak”. While the agenda is still being confirmed, the joint informational hearing will focus on discoveries from state and federal investigations, industry response and collaboration with government and academia, state and federal processes for regulating voluntary industry responses, and potential conflicts between farming and environmental enhancements.

Freeze Relief Questions

On Wednesday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the state would **guarantee \$14.2 million in loans to farmers and businesses** hurt by the January 2007 freeze that destroyed more than \$1 billion in crops and left thousands jobless. The Small Business Disaster Assistance Loan Guarantee Program authorizes the state to guarantee loans by local banks and other lenders to small businesses affected by a disaster. The loan guarantees will be made available to farmers who do not qualify for federal loan programs.

[Click here visit the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Website](#)

For questions about assistance in Kings, Fresno, or Tulare Counties please contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov

For questions about assistance in Kern County please contact Mina Tovar at (661) 334-3745 or by

e-mail at Mina.Tovar@asm.ca.gov

When Visiting Sacramento

As always, thank you to everyone who stops by my office. As a reminder, next time you find yourself in Sacramento stop by my new office and say hello. The office is now located on the 5th floor in room 5155. If I'm unavailable please leave your business card with my staff and I will do my best to get in contact with you.

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e mail [Brandon Sanders](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov) so they can be included in our distribution list.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov

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